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Message Text

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45
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-03 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AGR-05

TRSE-00 /046 W
---------- 066557
R 170500Z JUN 75
FM AMCONSUL MADRAS
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2935
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, IN
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: CLOUD SEEDING

REF: A. STATE 137240
B. STATE 140576

1. TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL SECRETARY CHOCKALINGAM ANNOUNCED TO PRESS ON JUNE 10 THAT STATE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO UNDERTAKE CLOUD SEEDING PROJECT IN COLLABORATION WITH ATMOSPHERICS INCORPORATED (AI). ITEM RECEIVED FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN MOST ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS. DETAILS AND COST OF PROJECT AS SET FORTH IN PROPOSAL SENT BY HENDERSON WERE SPELLED OUT TO PRESS, AS WELL AS FIRM'S EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE. CHOCKALINGAM TOLD REPORTERS PRELIMINARY STUDIES INDICATED CONSIDERABLE ENTHUSIASM JUSTIFIED.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: CHOCKALINGAM JUMPED THE GUN A BIT, INCLUDING STATING THAT AI TEAM WOULD ARRIVE BY JULY 1, AND WE NOW HAVE TO CROSS FINGERS AND HOPE NOTHING GOES WRONG. HOWEVER, ON BALANCE HIS DECISION TO GO PUBLIC MAY HAVE
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BEEN BEST. BY GETTING FACTS TO REPORTERS EARLY AND THOROUGHLY,

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HE PRE-EMPTED POSSIBILITY OF RUMORS BEING STARTED BY THOSE
WHO WOULD ONLY SEE A MYSTERIOUS AMERICAN PLOT TO QTE
DE-STABILIZE UNQTE INDIA'S WEATHER. HE THREW U.S.G. A
BOUQUET BY STATING THAT HE LOCATED AI THROUGH GOOD
OFFICES OF LOCAL AMERICAN CONSULATE, AND ALSO PUT AI PROPOSAL
IN BEST LIGHT BY SAYING AMERICAN FIRM HAD RESPONDED TO HELP
STATE TACKLE ITS DROUGHT PROBLEMS, AND HAD OFFERED TO TRAIN
INDIANS TO CARRY ON WEATHER MODIFICATION WORK IN FUTURE.
THERE HAS BEEN NO ADVERSE REACTION SUBSEQUENT TO HIS
ANNOUNCEMENT. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, WE TAKE THIS, NOT ONLY AS
EVIDENCE THAT CHOCKALINGAM IS A GOOD ADMINISTRATOR AND A
FRIEND OF THE U.S., BUT ALSO AS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE
RELATIVELY PRACTICAL AND BENIGH ATTITUDES TOWARD THE U.S.
THAT PREVAIL IN TAMIL NADU. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

3. CHOCKALINGAM APPRECIATED INFORMATION PASSED IN REFTEL, AND
IS MOVING AHEAD WITH PAPERWORK FOR PAYMENTS AS SCHEDULED.
HE HAS ALSO SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED COPY OF CONTRACT
FROM HENDERSON. HE WOULD LIKE TO CLEAR UP JUST ONE
DETAIL OF CONTRACT. AS STATED IN REFTEL, IT IS WRITTEN FOR THREE
YEAR PERIOD (CLAUSE THREE), BUT HENDERSON IS WILLING TO
CONDUCT SEEDING FOR ONE YEAR TRIAL PERIOD. CHOCKALINGAM
WANTS TO KNOW IF HE SHOULD AMEND CONTRACT TO MAKE THIS
CLEAR JUST TO AVOID ANY BREACH OF CONTRACT PROBLEMS SHOULD IT
NOT BE POSSIBLE
TO GET FOREIGN EXCHANGE OR GOI APPROVAL FOR
ADDITIONAL YEARS. WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF MAJOR PROJECTS
DIVISION COULD CONTACT HENDERSON AND CABLE HIS REPLY.

4. STATE 140576 ARRIVED AS THIS WAS BEING PREPARED FOR TRANS-
MISSION. PASSED INFORMATION TO CHOCKALINGAM. HE SAID HE
IS READY TO SIGN FORMAL CONTRACT IMMEDIATELY AS SOON AS
HE HAS CLARIFICATION THAT IN SO DOING HE IS UNDERTAKING FORMAL
COMMITTMENT ONLY TO 1975 PROGRAM, AND THAT 1976 AND 1977
PROGRAMS WILL BE OPTIONAL. HE SAID HENDERSON CAN TAKE OUR
CABLE AS CONFIRMATION OF HIS FORMAL APPROVAL OF 1975 CONTRACT,
INCLUDING PROPOSED BREAKDOWN OF DOLLARS AND RUPEES, IN ORDER TO
KEEP MOVING AHEAD.

5. RE SCHEDULED JULY 9 ARRIVAL OF AIRCRAFT, CAN HENDERSON
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PROVIDE FULL DETAILS OF MODE OF SHIPMENT, PORT OF ENTRY,
AND DOCUMENTATION SO THAT CHOCKALINGAM CAN ARRANGE CLEARANCES
AND AVOID ANY HOLDUPS ON ITS ARRIVAL. SAME FOR RADAR.
INVOICES SHOULD SHOW WHAT ITEMS ARE COMING IN, WHAT
ITEMS WILL BE SENT OUT AGAIN AT END OF PROGRAM, AND WHAT
ITEMS ARE TO BE CONSUMED IN INDIA. GOI CUSTOMS IS A
FORCE UNTO ITSELF AND CONCEIVABLY COULD CREATE LONG DELAYS
IF DETAILS NOT CAREFULLY ATTENDED TO. CHOCKALINGAM ADVISES

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HENDERSON TO ARRANGE SHIPMENT OF AIRCRAFT, WHICH HE ASSUMES WILL BE DISASSEMBLED AND AIRFREIGHTED, SO THAT PORT OF DISCHARGE IS CLEARLY INDICATED AS MADRAS. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT CUSTOMS CLEARANCE IS PERFORMED HERE WHERE CHOCKALINGAM CAN MAKE SURE IT MOVES SMOOTHLY. ONLY AIRLINE WHICH OPERATES DIRECT CARGO SERVICE TO MADRAS, VIA BOMBAY, LONDON, AND NEW YORK IS AIR INDIA. THIS IS A BOEING 747. PAN AM IS ONLY AMERICAN CARRIER OPERATING HERE NOW, AND IT TERMINATES IN NEW DELHI. THIS WOULD REQUIRE EITHER TRANSHIPMENT IN DELHI ON INDIAN AIRWAYS, WHOSE LARGEST CRAFT IS BOEING 737, OR ASSEMBLING CRAFT IN DELHI AND FLYING IT TO MADRAS. AIR INDIA HAS OFFICES IN NEW YORK.
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